(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) During the Sixth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, 2008 held at New Delhi on 7th to 9th January, 2008, a Plenary Session on 'Diaspora Philanthropy: Empowerment of Rural Women' was organized to discuss the modes of participation and the kind of Institutional support that the overseas Indians would require to channelise their philanthropic propensities for rural development and empowerment of women in India. A proposal to establish a 'not-for-profit' Foundation which will serve as a credible institutional mechanism to assist the Overseas Indians to contribute to the social causes is under examination.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs had signed an MoU with the American % Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) on 7th January, 2006 at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to promote innovative healthcare in the rural sector. The Scheme envisages implementing medical care for certain debilitating diseases as a pilot project in two States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. The launching of the programme is being worked out in consultation with the State Governments.

No funds to States without DPCs

273. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided not to release Rs. 4,700 crore due to the State Governments under the Government's Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) because of their failure to set up District Planning Commissions (DPCs);

(b) whether his Ministry and PMO agreed that incentives be given only to the States which set up DPCs to encourage non-performers to do better;

(c) whether Ministry has released Rs. 1,100 crore from BRGF till December, 2007;

(d) the States which have not set up the DPCs; and

(e) the concrete measures and steps the Union Government is considering to take to provide assistance to these States?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MAN1 SHANKAR AJYAR): (a) The establishment of District Planning Committees and the consolidation of draft district plans by DPCs in conformity with Article 243ZD of the Constitution is the "sine qua non" of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). At the same time it is recognised that in the initial stages a measure of flexibility has to be built into the programme without transgressing the approved architecture of the programme. In the case of Jharkhand, where Panchayat elec- [4] tions are still to be held since the matter is *sub-judice,* consideration is being given to ways of addressing the conundrum. Of course, in areas exempted from the application of Parts IX and IX-A of the Constitution, parallel arrangements based on the recommendations of the [f] Expert Committee on Planning for the Sixth Schedule Areas and those Areas not covered by Parts IX and IX-A of the Constitution, chaired by Shri V. Ramachandran, would suffice.

(b) Yes, Sir. A scheme entitled "Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability incentive Scheme" is already in operation. Efforts are being made to augment the funding under the Scheme. The Scheme *inter alia* takes into account the progress made towards establishing DPCs and empowering them as provided for in the Constitution.

(c) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj had released Rs. 2965 crore under RS VY/BRGF till 31 st December, 2007. The amount sanctioned till 26th February 2008 is Rs. 3?91.79 crore Details are enclosed as Statement *(See* below).

(d)The States of Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Punjab. Uttarakhand and-Uttar Pradesh have not constituted District Planning Committees (DPCs) in accordance with the provisions of Article 243ZD of the Constitution.

(e) The Ministry is pursuing States to ensure that they take steps to meet the constitutional mandate to set up District Planning Committees. Except in the case of Jharkhand, where elections to the Panchayati Raj Institutions have not been held due to prolonged litigation, all States mentioned above as not having constituted DPCs have reported some progress in this regard. It is therefore expected that these remaining States will expedite the constitution of DPCs.

Statement

Details oj amount released by MJo Panchayat! Raj under RSVY/BRGF till 31.12.07 *and the amount sanctioned till* 26.2.08

Abstract or Release to the all States covered under RSVY-BRGF daring 2007-08 (as oa 26.2.08)

(Rs in Crore)

SI. No.	Name of States	No. of Districts covered under BRGF	Release under RSVY	Capacity Building	Advance for preparation of district plans	Oevdopmcnt Grant
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	90	!3	1.3	301. STS
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0		0.1.	
3.	Assam	11	45		1.1	59.98
4.	Bihar	36	90		3.6	511.39
5.	Chhattisgarh	13	45		1.3	223.16
6	Gujarat	6	7.5		0.6	
7.	Haryana	2	completed		0.2	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	15	2	0.2	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	15		0.3	
10.	Jharkhand	21	82.5	21	2.1	
11.	Karnataka	5	45	10	0.5	82.76
12.	Kerala	2	7.5	2	0.2	9.25
13.	Madhya Pradesh	24	completed	24	2.4	378.42
14.	Maharashtra	12	75		1.2	
15	Manipur	3	completed	Q.3		
16.	Meghalaya	3	7.5		0.3	
17	Mizoram	2	15		0.2	
18	Nagaland	3	completed		0.3	

1	2		3	4	5	6	7
19.	Orissa	19		52.5	19	1.9	240.09
20.	Punjab		1	7.5		0.1	
21.	Rajasthan	12		completed		1.2	300.81
22.	Sikkim		1	7.5		0.1	
23.	Tamil Nadu	6		7.5		0.6	
24.	Tripura		1	7.5		0.1	
25.	Uttarakhand	3		30		0.3	
26.	Uttar Pradesh	34		135	25.3	3.4	
27. i	West Bengal	11		67.5		1.1	187.75
	TOTAL:	250		855	116.3	25	2295.49
	GRAND TOTAL:	4+5+6+7=Rs. 3291.79 Crore					

Raising of retirement age

† 274. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to increase the retirement age of Central Government employees;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government had accepted all the recommendations made by First Pay Commission to Fourth Pay Commission *in toto* as it had accepted the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(d) if not, the justification for accepting the recommendations of pay Commissions *in toto;* and

(e) whether Government has also considered that problem of unemployment would become more complex by increasing the age of retirement and whether the youths who become overage in this period would not be deprived of Government jobs forever?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(c) and (d) The Government had accepted many of the recommendations of these Pay Commissions.

(e) All such aspects are duly considered by the Government at the time of taking any decision.

Change in the pattern of Civil Services Exams

275. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) proposes to follow the General Management Aptitude Test pattern in conducting Civil Services Examination and finish the entire process in six months instead of the present pattern which involves about 18 months **for** the completion of the examination process;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.